

Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 06435 251628Z

53

ACTION ACDA-10

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4822

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INFO USDEL MBFR VIENNA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T USNATO 6435

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO, MBFR

SUBJECT: MBFR: OPTION III: PHASE II REDUCTION COMMITMENTS:

SPC MEETING NOVEMBER 24

REFS: A. STATE 277369 DTG 222117Z NOV 75

B. MBFR VIENNA 276 DTG 161420Z JUNE 75

C. MBFR VIENNA 564 DTG 241835Z NOV 75

1. AT NOVEMBER 24 SPC MEETING, US REP (MOORE) MADE THE PROPOSAL ON PHASE II REDUCTION COMMITMENTS CONTAINED IN PARAS 8 TO 10, REF A.

2. BELGIAN REP (WILLOT) SAID THAT IN HIS VIEW, THE US PROPOSAL MET ONE OF BELGIUM'S PRESSING NEEDS. THE US WAS RIGHT IN PROPOSING DELETION OF THE FINAL SENTENCE IN THE FRG FOOTNOTE, SINCE IT WAS NOT JUDICIOUS TO DISCUSS THE PROBLEM WITH THE EAST AT THIS TIME. THERE WAS STILL A NEED FOR ALLIED
SECRET

PAGE 02 NATO 06435 251628Z

WORK ON SEPARATE GUIDANCE TO THE AHG IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AHG REQUEST (REF B). BELGIUM IN GENERAL FAVORS THE APPROACH IN PARA 16 B OF THAT REQUEST.

3. BELGIAN REP SAID THE ONLY POSSIBLE DIFFICULTY HE COULD SEE WITH THE US PROPOSAL WAS THE FIRST OF THE TWO SENTENCES THE US WISHED TO ADD TO PARA 3 OF THE GUIDANCE (PARA 9, REF A). IT WAS NOT EXACT THAT ALLIED NEGOTIATORS SHOULD TELL THE EAST THAT THE WEST WAS NOT WILLING IN PHASE I TO DISCUSS ANY ASPECTS OF COMMITMENTS TO BE UNDERTAKEN IN PHASE II. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE US HAD MENTIONED ONE EXCEPTION TO THIS RULE IN THE SECOND SENTENCE, I.E. THE ALL PARTICIPANTS COMMITMENT. HOWEVER, ANOTHER EXCEPTION WAS THAT THE ALLIES WOULD EVENTUALLY HAVE TO ANSWER EASTERN QUESTIONS PHASE I ABOUT NON-US ALLIED EQUIPMENT LIMITATIONS THAT SUCH LIMITATIONS WERE UNACCEPTABLE. HE THEREFORE SUGGESTED ELIMINATION OF THE TWO SENTENCES THE US WISHED TO ADD TO PARA 3 OF THE GUIDANCE. DUTCH REP (MEESAMAN) SUGGESTED INSTEAD INSERTING THE WORD "REDUCTION" BEFORE "COMMITMENTS" IN THE FIRST SENTENCE WHICH THE US WISHED TO ADD TO PARA 3. BELGIAN REP THOUGHT THIS WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO BELGIUM.

4. UK REP (BAILES) WELCOMED THE US POSITION. SHE SAID THE UK HAD ALSO COME TO UNDERSTAND THE NEED TO REGISTER IN THE POSITION PAPER THE REJECTION OF INDIVIDUAL REDUCTION COMMITMENTS. THE UK HAD ALSO CONCLUDED THAT IT WOULD BE BETTER NOT TO GIVE THE AHG NEW GUIDANCE IN THIS CONTEXT, SO THE UK WOULD AGREE WITH THE US ON DELETION OF THE FINAL SENTENCE IN THE FRG FOOTNOTE. THE UK WAS STILL NOT CONVINCED THAT THE AHG NEEDED ANY NEW SUBSTANTIVE GUIDANCE ON THIS SUBJECT FOR USE WITH THE EAST. SHE INQUIRED IF THE US INTENDED THE FIRST SNETENCE WHICH IT WISHED TO ADD TO APRA 3 OF THE GUIDANCE TO REPLACE ALL PREVIOUS ARGUMENTS WHICH THE AHG HAD MADE ON THIS SUBJECT, INCLUDING THE ARGUMENT THAT THE ALLIES WOULD ACCEPT NO REDUCTION COMMITMENTS INCONSISTENT WITH THE COLLECTIVE COMMON CEILING. US REP SAID HE DID NOT BELEIVE THIS TO BE THE CASE.

5. FRG REP (CITRON) WELCOMED THAT THE US HAD ACCEPTED MOST OF THE FRG WORDING. HE WOULD OF COURSE REFER BACK TO BONN THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE FRG COULD LIVE WITHOUT THE FINAL SECRET

PAGE 03 NATO 06435 251628Z

SENTENCE IN THE FRG FOOTNOTE. THE NEW US WORDING FOR PARA 3 OF THE GUIDANCE APPEARED ACCEPTABLE.

6. ITALIAN REP (CIARRAPICO) THOUGH THAT THE US PROPOSAL WAS GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE, AND HE THOUGHT ITALY WOULD AGREE WITH THE BELGIAN REP THAT IT WAS NOT NECESSARY TO SAY ANYTHING NEW TO THE OTHER SIDE AT THIS TIME.

7. COMMENT: THE US PROPOSAL, IN REGISTERING INTERNAL ALLIED AGREEMENT ON THE REJECTION OF INDIVIDUAL REDUCTION COMMITMENTS BY NON-US ALLIES, APPEARS TO HAVE MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR BELGIUM TO AGREE NOT TO SAY ANYTHING TO THE EAST ABOUT THIS POSITION FOR THE PRESENT. WE HAD INFORMED BELGIAN REP

OF THE NEW US POSITION SEVERAL HOURS BEFORE THE MEETING,
SO WE ASSUME HIS COMMENT REPRESENTS MORE THAN A PERSONAL
REACTION. GIVEN WHAT WE KNOW TO BE THE UK POSITION, THE FRG
IS UNLIKELY TO HAVE ANY SUPPORT IF IT INSISTS ON MAINTAINING
THE FINAL SENTENCE IN THE FRG FOOTNOTE.

8. THE PROPOSAL TO INSERT "REDUCTION" BEFORE "COMMITMENT"
IN THE FIRST SENTENCE WHICH THE US WISHED TO ADD TO PARA 3
RELATES DIRECTLY TO THE ISSUE RAISED BY VIENNA IN REF C,
AND ON WHICH WE HAVE SENT A SEPARATE COMMENT TODAY. WE RE-
COMMEND ACCEPTANCE OF THIS PROPOSAL.

9. ACTION REQUESTED: GUIDANCE ON THE LATTER PROPOSAL IN
TIME FOR SPC MEETING THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27. BRUCE

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